CAPSULE SUMMARY

Bosley House HA-2066 510 South Main Street Bel Air, Harford County 1925 c. Private

Two-and-a-half stories high and two bays wide, this circa 1925 Colonial Revival-style Four Square house is of wood-frame construction and rests on a solid, rock-faced, concrete-block foundation. Rising above the hipped, asphalt-shingle roof is a central-interior brick chimney and one hipped-roof dormer located on the façade. Across the full-width of the facade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with wood Tuscan columns and square balusters. The first story is clad with German weatherboard siding and the second story is covered with wood shingles.

The Bosley House is a representative example of a modest Colonial Revival-style Four Square dating to 1925 within the Town of Bel Air, Maryland. Between World War I and II, Colonial Revival was the most popular historic revival house style in the United States, as can be seen with the numerous Colonial Revival houses in Bel Air. Ubiquitous throughout the United States, Four Square dwellings were popular particularly during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Many of these Four Squares constructed throughout the United States were purchased as "kit" or "mail-order" houses or were constructed by local builders mimicking plans taken from catalogues of companies such as Sears and Roebuck or the Aladdin Company. This house is also significant as a speculative house built by Harry Orsburn, a prominent builder in Bel Air during the 1920s.

The Bosley House, located in the Kenmore Addition, is surrounded by houses mostly dating to the first half of the twentieth century including primarily Colonial Revival houses such as Four Squares and Cape Cod dwellings.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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7. Description		Inventory No. HA-2066
Condition		
excellent X good fair	deteriorated ruins altered	

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Exterior Description

Facing northeast, the dwelling at 510 South Main Street is located on 0.32 acres of land and is sited near the road fronted with numerous foundation plantings. Several trees and shrubs surround the house and a paved driveway leads to the rear parking lot from Main Street.

Two-and-a-half stories high and two bays wide, this circa 1925 Colonial Revival-style Four Square house is of wood-frame construction and rests on a solid, rock-faced, concrete-block foundation. Rising above the hipped, asphalt-shingle roof is a central-interior brick chimney and one hipped-roof dormer located on the façade. Across the full-width of the facade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with wood Tuscan columns and square balusters. The roof has a boxed cornice, a wood soffit, and wide eaves. The first story is clad with German weatherboard siding and the second story is covered with wood shingles. Other architectural features include cornerboards, square-edged wood surrounds with lug lintels, and a wood porch floor. Located on the rear elevation are a one-story shed-roof addition and a shed-roof, enclosed porch, which rests on a rock-faced, concrete-block pier foundation.

The first story of the façade contains one off-center modern metal door with one oval light. A tripartite window of 3/1 double-hung wood sash windows flanks the entrance. Each of the 3/1 windows throughout the house except where noted are double-hung wood sash. The second story contains two pairs of 3/1 windows and the dormer contains two 6-light wood casement windows.

The southeast elevation is pierced with two pairs of 3/1 windows on the first story and one pair of 3/1 windows and one single 3/1 window on the second story. Continuing to the rear elevation, which faces southwest, only the second story of the main block of the house is visible. This story is pierced with two 3/1 windows and one 6/6 vinyl-sash window. The rear one-story section contains two 6/6 wood-sash windows and the enclosed porch is illuminated with one 6-light vinyl fixed window. A modern 9-light/2-panel metal door is located in the enclosed porch.

The first story of the north elevation contains three 3/1 windows, two of which are paired, and one 4-light/3-panel wood door with a brass knob. The door is covered with a gable-roof portico supported with square, wood posts. The portico features boxed eaves and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The second story of the north elevation is illuminated with four 3/1 windows, two of which are paired. The basement is illuminated with two 3-light, wood awning windows on the north elevation. The basement windows have wood sills and the concrete blocks surrounding the windows are paneled.

Interior Description

The interior of the Bosley House is a side-hall plan in which the original room uses included a front hall and living room with a dining room and the kitchen in the rear. The one-story addition was constructed on the rear of the house to move the kitchen into, which was then eventually partitioned to add a bathroom. This house is currently used as a day spa and therefore the rooms have not retained their original uses. The enclosed porch contains a mudroom and a small storage

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Number 7 Page 1

space. Access to the second floor is by way of the quarter-turn stair in the front hall and, basement access is through an enclosed stair underneath the front stair. Access to the second floor was denied by the owners at the time of the 2004 survey.

Materials exhibited throughout the first floor of the Bosley House except where noted include hardwood floors covered with carpet, plaster painted walls and ceilings, baseboards in each of the rooms, and square-edged casings with lug lintels for each of the doors and windows. The base molding of the five-inch high baseboard consists of a splayed filet, a cyma recta, and a recessed filet, and there is no shoe molding.

The front hall features a closed stringer stair with a square, paneled newel post on a high plinth with a square block cap. The stair also features square balusters, a rounded balustrade, and the molding profile of the stringer is similar to the base molding of the baseboard. The door leading to the basement is a five, flush-panel door with a glass knob, a popular door type of the 1920s. Leading from the front hall to the front living room (original use) are 15-light French doors. A 4-panel wood double doors stand between the front living room and the rear dining room (original use) as well as between the dining room and the reception room (originally a kitchen). The living room and dining room feature closets with a slightly raised 4-panel door with brass handles. The reception room to the rear of the hall provides access to the dining room, bathroom, kitchen, storage room, and mudroom. The door to the storage room is a five-panel door with a modern replacement knob and the door to the mudroom is a modern 9-light/2-panel metal door. Access to the kitchen is through a flush two-panel door with a brass knob. The floor in the office is covered with 2 \frac{1}{2} inch floorboards and the window casings are unlike the main section of the house exhibiting reeding with bull's eye corner blocks. The baseboard, walls, and ceiling of the kitchen are similar to the main section of the house. Adjacent to the kitchen is the bathroom, which has similar materials to the main house except that the walls are covered with wallpaper. The storage room has a vinyl tile floor covering and the mudroom floor is covered with wood floorboards. The walls in the mudroom are the same as the exterior cladding of the house, which are the German weatherboards. The ceiling of the mudroom is covered with beaded boards typical of porch ceilings.

8. Significance			Inventory No. HA-2066	
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications X community planning conservation	 economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement 	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government e religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	1925 с.		Architect/Builder Har	ry Orsburn
Construction da	ates 1925 c.			
Evaluation for:				
-	National Register	N	laryland Register	Xnot evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Statement of Significance

The Bosley House is a representative example of a modest Colonial Revival-style Four Square dating to 1925 within the Town of Bel Air, Maryland. This dwelling is two-and-a-half stories, with a square footprint, an off-center entry, hipped roof, wide eaves, a full-width porch, and a dormer on the façade, all characteristics common of Four Square houses. Between World War I and II, Colonial Revival was the most popular historic revival house style in the United States, as can be seen with the numerous Colonial Revival houses in Bel Air. Ubiquitous throughout the United States, Four Square dwellings were popular particularly during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Many of these Four Squares constructed throughout the United States were purchased as "kit" or "mail-order" houses or were constructed by local builders mimicking plans taken from catalogues of companies such as Sears and Roebuck or the Aladdin Company. The Bosley House, located in the Kenmore Addition, is surrounded by houses mostly dating to the first half of the twentieth century including primarily Colonial Revival houses such as Four Squares and Cape Cod dwellings.

Development of Bel Air: Late 19th and Mid 20th Century

The proximity to Baltimore City, the arrival of the railroad, the introduction of the automobile, and improvement of roads allowed for greater prosperity within Harford County and particularly the Town of Bel Air. Bel Air was home to a building boom of the late nineteenth century and again after World War I. Hays, Richardson's, and the two Dallam's Additions are the primary residential developments of the late 19th century and early 20th century that took place within the Bel Air town limits.

Hays Addition is bounded on the south by Baltimore Pike, to the west by Archer Street, to the north by Thomas Street, and to the east by Bond Street. The Hays Addition was platted in 1886 and only three lots sold at this time. Between 1887 and 1917 only nine more lots were sold in this section of Bel Air. Marilynn M. Larew, historian, states that the reason for the slow building pace in Hays Addition could be the lots were priced much higher than lots in other sections of Bel Air such as in Dallam's Additions and Richardson's Addition.¹

¹ Marilynn M. Larew, Bel Air: An Architectural and Cultural History, 1782-1945 (Bel Air, MD: Town of Bel Air, 1995), p. 170.

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Name Bosley House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

The boundaries for Richardson's Addition are Bond Street to the east, Alice Anne Street to the south, Richardson Street to the west, and Nichols Street on the north. Lots began selling in 1886, however, it was not officially platted and recorded until 1911. By 1917, fifteen houses stood along Alice Anne Street, which became an African-American working class neighborhood. Not including the dwellings on Alice Anne Street, seventeen houses were constructed in Richardson's Addition between 1914 and 1945.²

Major Dallam's Addition was platted in 1883 and the boundaries are the MA & PA Railroad to the south, Dallam Avenue to the north, Rockspring Avenue to the east, and several lots past Mast Street to the west. Due to the proximity to the railroad, several lots were built upon for industrial and commercial uses as well as worker's housing. Dallam's second addition is located to the north of Dallam's first addition including Roland Avenue, Rockspring Avenue, and Hall Street. In the late 1880s, the west side of Rockspring Avenue was built upon followed by construction on Roland Avenue after 1890. Eleven houses were constructed in Dallam's second addition between 1885 and 1914.

Following World War I, Bel Air prospered with numerous suburban developments on the outskirts of the downtown core. Three of the larger additions to Bel Air during the 1920s include Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). The area that is Fulford Park originally was made up of 18 acres running from Main Street and Fulford Avenue, South to Linwood Avenue, and East to Ewing Street. Other streets included in Fulford Park are Maitland Street and Powell Avenue. Unlike the slow development of the late 19th century developments of Hays and Richardson's Additions, the lots in Fulford Park sold quickly and construction began immediately. The real estate agents responsible for selling the lots of Fulford Park advertised and auctioned the lots on one day in 1922 soon after it was platted. One hundred thirty six lots sold in one day bringing in a total of \$12,000.

The area known as Ingleside off North Hickory Avenue is bounded by Wright Street to the south and McCormick Lane to the north. This section of Bel Air was subdivided and platted by J. Edwin Webster, son of Colonel Edwin Hanson Webster, in April 1923. Oliver T. Wallace and Samuel Dameron were the real estate agents responsible for the sales. According to Larew, Ingleside was the "place to build between the wars" and continued to expand after 1945. Similar to Fulford Park, Ingleside held an auction to handle the sales of the lots which occurred in April or May of 1923. Ingleside developed rapidly, much more so than any other previous development made to Bel Air. According to Larew, the "first two blocks on East Broadway and Webster were full" by the end of the 1920s. A total of sixteen houses were constructed in the 1920s—"faster than any previous addition in town."

In 1919, Robert and Anne Heighe purchased 99 acres of Hanway's farm, which was platted in 1924 by the local real estate firm of Vaughn, Warren, and Wells, using their namesake for the subdivision. Today, the addition is better known as the Kenmore addition. The lots were auctioned on September 22, 1924 and a total of 199 lots were sold equaling \$19,500.

² Larew, p. 172.

³ Larew, pp. 173-176.

⁴ Larew, pp. 181-183.

⁵ Larew, pp. 181-181.

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Name Bosley House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Due to the building boom in Harford County in the 1920s and 1930s, the pre-World War I developments in Bel Air were being steadily built upon similar to the new developments of the early 1920s. A section of Dallam's second addition, which includes Hall Street, was re-surveyed and platted in 1931 as the Rock Spring Addition. This new plat consisted of two blocks with a total of 102 lots and is bounded to the north by Vale Road, to the east by Rockspring Avenue, to the south by Hall Street, and to the west by Roland Avenue. Robinson Street runs north south and connects Hall Street to Vale Road, originally called Bel Air-Watervale Road. Block A of Rock Spring Addition was platted with fifty-five lots, the majority of which are equal size of twenty-five feet wide and 100 feet deep. Block B of this addition contains forty-seven lots, most of which were of similar size to the lots in Block A.

After the platting of the Rock Spring Addition, several more residential developments were constructed within the town limits. Development slowed dramatically between the mid-1930s and the early 1950s. Because of the Town's proximity and association to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Bel Air experienced a remarkable population decline during the mid- to late-1940s due to the Proving Ground downsizing after World War II. In the early 1950s, Bel Air regained its population numbers as it was experiencing in the 1930s and numerous developments occurred during the 1950s and early 1960s including such examples as Howard Park (1951), Shamrock (1955), and Homestead Village (early 1960s).

Bosley House

The property at 510 South Main Street was built circa 1925 by the contractor, Harry Orsburn, in Bel Air, Maryland in the Third District of Harford County. The Bosley House is located on lots 45, 46, 47, 61, 62, and 63 of this subdivision. Kenmore, located on what was known as the Kenmore Dairy Farm, was one of the larger additions made to Bel Air in the 1920s. The land at the corner of South Main Street and the Baltimore Pike was purchased in 1894 by Colonel Harry D. Hanway from Captain Richard Bouldin. A turn-of-the- twentieth century building was constructed by Hanway, which became known as the Kenmore Inn. It is unclear if Hanway incorporated an earlier building into the construction of the Kenmore Inn. Hanway was 33 years old at the time of the purchase of Kenmore Farm. In 1900, according to the federal census he worked in a copper company and in addition to his wife, Hazel, he had one son and three daughters in his household ranging in ages from 10 to 16. Hanway was the chair of the Board of Town Commissioners between 1905 and 1906 and between 1910 and 1922. Hanway started a dairy farm on 400 acres that he purchased from George Bradford of the Homestead Farm in 1910. This land was located on the west side of Emmorton Road.

The Hanway farm was sold to Robert Heighe and his wife in 1924 and then was subdivided and recorded as the Kenmore Farm Subdivision in September 1924. The house at 510 South Main Street was sold by the Heighes to Harry and Fern Orsburn at the auction and was recorded on October 8, 1924.

Each of the Kenmore lots sold at the 1924 auction had three deed restrictions:

A) None of the property fronting Abingdon Road (present day Emmorton Road – MD 924), shall be used for business purposes for term of 10 years from date of sale;

⁶ The Kenmore Inn was demolished in 1960.

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B) No African-Americans to reside on property or purchase property; and

C) No buildings to be erected closer than 20 feet to any street line.

Orsburn, a prosperous speculative builder in Bel Air purchased these lots to build a house to be sold at a later date. According to the 1920 federal census, Harry and Fern Orsburn lived on Clayton Road in the Joppa District of Harford County. They owned their house and Harry Orsburn is listed as a house carpenter and 33 years of age in 1920. The 1930 census lists the Orsburns living on Main Street next to James Milton Bosley and the job description lists Harry Orsburn as a secretary/County Commissioner. The Four Square at 510 South Main Street built by Orsburn between 1925 and 1927 was sold to James M. Bosley and his wife Bertha in 1927. Orsburn also built a Four Square house at 502 South Main Street in 1927 for him and his family. Other ventures of Harry Orsburn's include the speculative purchase of the first block of Hickory Avenue in Bel Air. A few of the houses that he built here include the Stinchcomb House and the Sheridan-Adams House at 28 and 26 Hickory Avenue respectively. Orsburn built the Rinehart House at 325 Webster Street in 1924 and one year later he built the Pyle House at 329 Webster Street. According to Orsburn's obituary dated February 29, 1968, he resided at 1 Heighe Street and died at the age of 82. He established his contracting business in 1907 and from 1932 to 1941 he served on the Town of Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners and then became Mayor of Bel Air in 1941. The telephone directories of Bel Air dating from 1936 and 1950 list Orsburn residing at 502 Main Street.

The 1920 census lists the Bosleys as residing on Magnolia Road in Harford County in a rented home. The 1930 census, depicts the Bosleys residing in an owned house on Main Street, which was worth \$8,000. At this time, James Bosley was 51 years old and his wife was 41 and they had three children living in their household ranging in ages from 6 to 15. In 1959, James Milton Bosley died and the property was transferred to his wife and son. Bertha Bosley remained at this dwelling until her death in September 1962 and James Milton Bosley owned the property until his death in 1886. Following the death of James Milton Bosley, Jr., Geraldine Peeples and Dorothy Watters, Personal Representatives of the Estate of James Milton Bosley, sold the property to Susan Potter and Helen Cooney, who are now the present owners. Potter and Cooney have maintained their day spa business in this building since 1986 when it was purchased by them.

Chain-of-Title

All information was taken from the Bel Air Courthouse.

October 8, 1924

Grantor: Robert H. Heighe and wife Grantee: Harry and Fern Orsburn Deed Book DGW 191 Folio 143

June 7, 1927

Grantor: Harry W. and Fern A. Orsburn Grantee: James Milton and Bertha M. Bosley

⁷ Around 1950/1951 Harry Orsburn subdivided the land on which 502 South Main Street was located to build a residence to the rear of the 1927 house. He resided at 1 Heighe Street until his death in 1968. The property at 502 South Main Street remained in Fern Orsburn's ownership until she sold it in 1985.

⁸ References to Harry Orsburn are included throughout Marilynn Larew's book, *Bel Air: An Architectural and Cultural History*, 1782-1945 (Bel Air, MD: Town of Bel Air, 1995).

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Deed Book DGW 203 Folio 405

October 6, 1959 Grantor: Bertha Bosley (widow)

Grantee: Zero, Inc.9

Deed Book 536 Folio 437

October 6, 1959 Grantor: Zero, Inc.

Grantee: Bertha M. Bosley and James Milton Bosley, Jr.

Deed Book GRG 536 Folio 439

August 4, 1986 Grantor: Geraldine B. Peeples and Dorothy B. Watters, Personal Representatives of the Estate of

James Milton Bosley

Grantee: Helen A. Cooney and Susan H. Potter

Deed Book 1337 Folio 89

⁹ Zero, Inc. is possibly a fake company common in Bel Air, Maryland at this time. The reason Zero, Inc. was formed is unknown at the time the MIHP form was written.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HA-2066

Bel Air Courthouse, Land Records. Bel Air, MD

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City. Harford County Telephone Directory, 1936, 1950-1951, 1951-1952,1963, Baltimore City, MD.

Harford County Historical Society. Vertical Files. Bel Air, MD.

Larew, Marilynn M. Bel Air: An Architectural and Cultural History, 1782-1945. Bel Air, MD: Town of Bel Air, MD, 1995.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1920-1930, Harford County, Maryland. Census searched from

http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library (7 December 2004).

10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Bosley House is located at 510 South Main Street in the Third District of Harford County in the Town of Bel Air. It is associated with tax map 301 parcel 1457 and is in the Vaugh, Warren and Well Subdivision of Kenmore Farm, lots 45, 46, 47, 61, 62, 63.

11. Form Prepared by

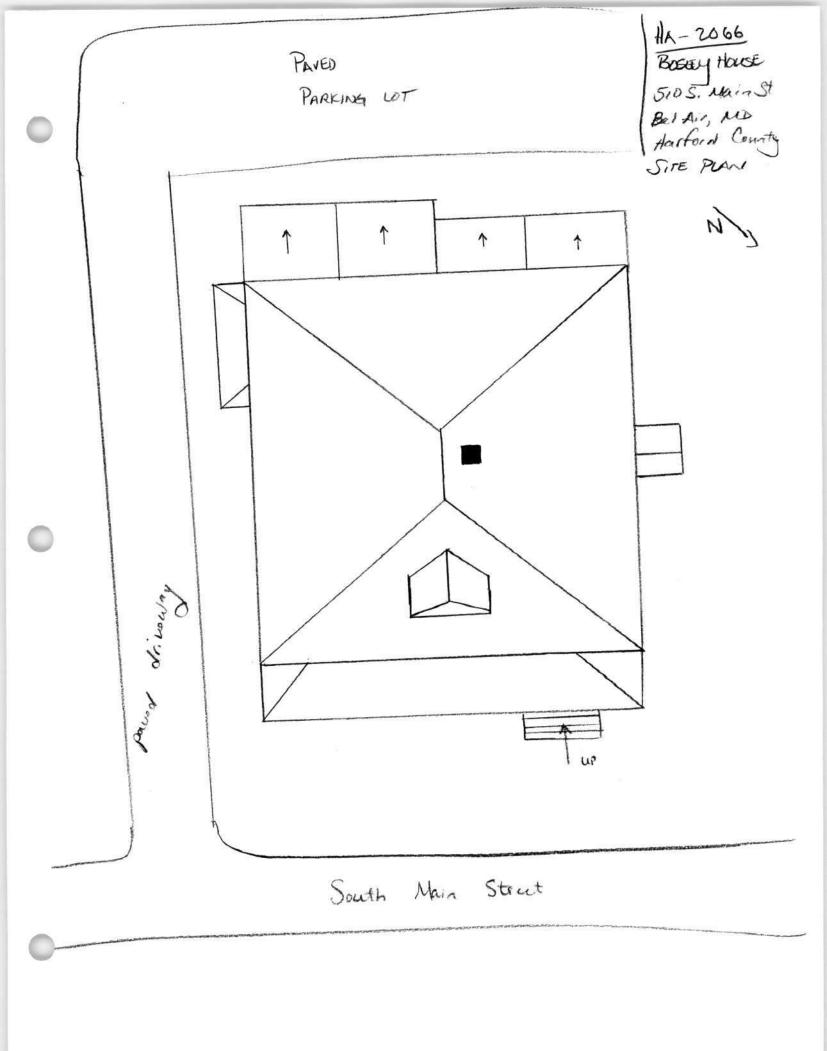
name/title	Kristie Baynard/Architectural Historian				
organization	Arcadia Preservation, LLC	date	December 30, 2004		
street & number	1209 Powhatan Street	telephone	703.798.8124		
city or town	Fredericksburg	state	VA		

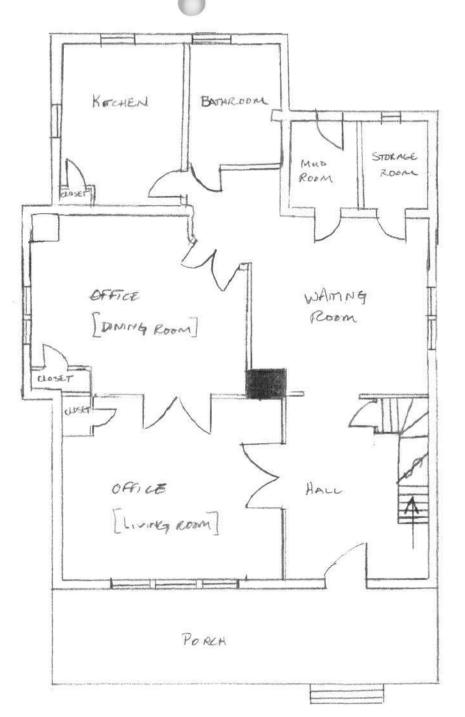
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600



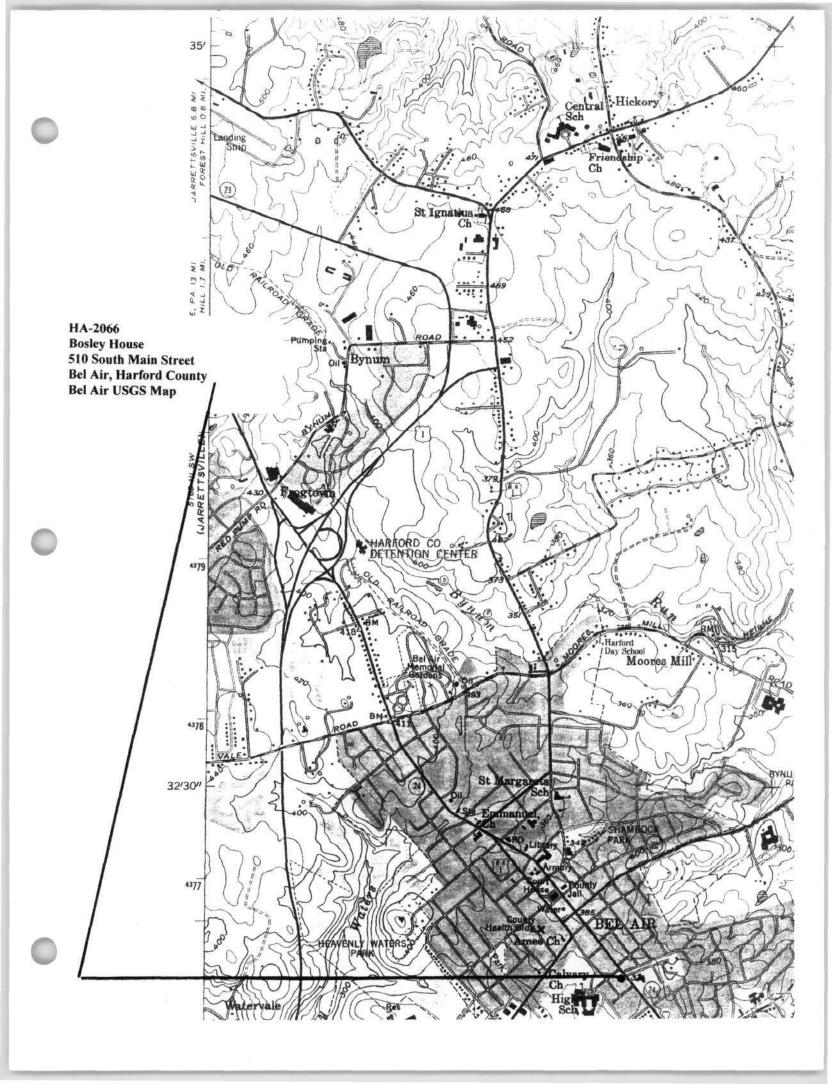


HA-2066

Bostey House
510 South Main Street
Bel Air, MD
Harford County

IST FLOOR PLAN NOT DRAWN TO SLALE

N





510 5 Main St. Del Air, Harford Co Arcadia Preservation 1/2005 MD SHPD East CORNER NEW LOOKING WEST



30 sley House 510 5 Main St Ber tor, Harford Co. Areadia Preservation 1/2005 SOUTH CORNER



HA-2066
BOSLEY HOUSE
510 5. Main St.
Bel Air, Harford G.
Arcadia Preservation
Y2005
MD SHOO
WEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NE
3 AL Q



HA - 2066 BOSLEY HOUSE 510 S. Main Street Harford County, Bel Air Arcadia Preservation 12/2004 NID SHPD 1st floor, hall, view looking NORTH



HA-2066 Bosley House 510 South Main St. Harford County. Bel Air Areadia Preservation 1st Floor, Parlor, view looking



HA-2066
BOHEY HOUSE

510 South Main St.
Harford County, Bel Air
Arcadia Preservation

12/2004
MD SHPO
164 Alerc, Dining Room view looking west



HA- 2066 BOSLEY HOUSE 510 South Main Street Harford County, Bel AIN Arcadia Preservation 12/2004 1st floor, Kitchen, View looking South



HA 2066

BOSLEY HOLE

SID SOUTH MAIN STREET

HARFORD COUNTY, BELAIR

ARCADIA PRESERVATION

12/2004

MD SHPO

IST FLOOR BATHROOM, VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

R of Q



HA- 2066 BOSTELY HOUSE 510 SI Main St. Bell Air, Harford G. Arcadia Preservation 1/2005 MO SHPD 1st floor, Reas Coom, View looking West